

existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring; and

one or more converters connected to the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring, each converter having an outlet for connecting to either a conventional single media or a multimedia electronic device;

wherein the bridge unit drives the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring according to a Local Area Network (LAN) protocol, translating the public network protocol signals to the LAN protocol by modulating the LAN signals onto the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring, and each converter converts the modulated LAN signals on the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring to a form required by the connected single media or multimedia device.

2. (Unchanged) The multimedia data distribution system of claim 1 wherein the single and multimedia electronic devices include telephones, personal computers, fax machines, and televisions running through set top boxes.

3. (Amended) A home network system, comprising:

an adapter unit having [an] a single inlet port for public network protocol signals and connected to an existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring of a home or business; and

a converter connected to the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring, the converter having an outlet adapted for connecting to either a conventional single media or a multimedia electronic device;

wherein the adapter unit translates between a public network data protocol at the inlet port and a Local Area Network (LAN) data protocol using hi-frequency, modulated network signals on the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring, and manages the existing asymmetric internal

22 telephone wiring as a non-isochronous type bus, and the converter converts signals on the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring to a form required by one of the single media and multimedia electronic devices.

4. (Unchanged) The home network system of claim 3 wherein the single and multimedia electronic devices include telephones, personal computers, fax machines, and televisions running through set top boxes.

5. (Amended) A home network system, comprising:

23 an intelligent adapter unit having [an] a single inlet port for public network protocol signals and connected to an existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring of a home or business; and

one or more converters connected to the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring, each converter having an outlet adapted for connecting to either a conventional single media or a multimedia electronic device;

wherein the adapter unit manages the existing asymmetric internal telephone wiring as a local area network (LAN) using hi-frequency, modulated network signals, and manages addresses for the single and multimedia devices, and wherein the home network system may be reconfigured and reprogrammed from network level.

6. (Unchanged) The system of claim 5 wherein a local hard disk is used for storing both data and parameters of the LAN.

24 55) 7. A method for managing a multimedia home network, comprising steps of;

(a) delivering public network protocol signals to the level of a home or business;

24 (b) imposing a configurable bridge unit at the home or business having a single inlet port connected to [between] the public network and having a connection to an internal network of the home or business, the bridge unit transferring data between the public and internal networks;

(c) connecting addressable clients to the internal network;

(d) sending data from the public network to the bridge unit; and

(e) using at least a portion of the data to configure addresses for the clients.

8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 7 wherein, in step (b), the bridge unit comprises internal mass storage, and at least some of the data sent in step (d) is stored in the internal mass storage.

9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8 wherein the internal mass storage is a hard disk drive.

10. A method for managing a multimedia home network, comprising steps of;

15
Sub F-7 (a) delivering public network protocol signals to the level of a home or business;

(b) imposing a bridge unit at the home or business having a single inlet port connected to [between] the public network and an internal high-frequency network with addressable clients, the bridge unit storing configuration for the internal high-frequency network; and

(c) addressing data from the public network to individual ones of the addressable clients via the bridge unit.